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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4903rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 26 January 2004, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Post-conflict national reconciliation: role of the United Nations", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council met on 26 January 2004 to consider 'Post-conflict National Reconciliation: The Role of the United Nations'. Members expressed their respective views and understandings on, and reaffirmed the vital importance of this matter, stressing the necessary close cooperation needed in the United Nations system, including the Council, on this issue.

"The statements underscored the important tasks that must be addressed in post-conflict situations in order to reach the goal of national reconciliation, as well as the relevant experience and expertise that exist within the United Nations system and in the Member States.

"Members considered that it would be appropriate to examine further how to harness and direct this expertise and experience drawn up from several key areas, so that it would be more readily accessible to the Council, to the wider United Nations system and membership, and to the international community as a whole, so that the lessons and experience of the past, could be, as appropriate, learned and built on.

"The Council invites the Secretary-General to give consideration to the relevant views expressed in this debate in preparation of his report on 'Justice and the Rule of Law: United Nations Role'.

"The Council invites all Members of the United Nations, and other parts of the United Nations system with relevant experience and expertise to contribute to this process."

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